

## **Thoughts on Luigi Mangione**

**12/10/2024**

It is without reserve or qualification that I applaud the assassination of Brian Thompson by the man Luigi Mangione. This was a well-deserved act of retribution, carried out on behalf of the American people and our public consciousness. Those in power wish to refute or ignore this reality, but they are doing so out of stupidity, ignorance, and greed.

I need not expound on the torture chamber that is the American Healthcare system. In this country, medical emergencies carry the chance of death or financial ruin. America is too a country which runs culturally and functionally on capital. So here, financial ruin is true ruin. It is a fate to which death may be preferable, and often is.

This assassination was borne out of hatred for the American medical system. But it carries more weight than this industry. The ruling, wealthy class of America manipulates the minority and controls lives as if they were pieces in some game. We live in a plutocracy – a society controlled by the ultra-rich. This is a disease which requires treatment and for too long the wealthy have denied Americans their borne right to free agency in the world. Mangione shot at Thompson and killed him, but he too fired at the plutocratic apparatus which monopolizes our daily lives.

Many people who laud themselves as more mature or as possessing some divine calmness and proclaim that we should not use violence to enact change. They insist with self-admiration that Mangione's act is in a realm which we must never tread. This perspective is foolish.

Out-of-touch liberals like the governor Josh Shapiro from Pennsylvania insist that bloodshed is not how we solve problems in America. I wonder if Shapiro is familiar with any events which occur outside of his mansion. I wonder if the Iraqis would agree with his assessment, after the American military murdered their sons, daughters, mothers, and fathers. I too would ask him if the slaves who were liberated through our American Civil War shared his moronic opinion. Perhaps he should return to his studies – He should return from a life which has somehow deleted the American War of Independence from his mind's eye.

But let us wander blindly into Shapiro's realm of ignorance. Americans have protested our healthcare system, and have achieved precisely nothing. We have produced cultural works to voice our opinion — Works which have been fruitless. People like Shapiro will say we must have our opinion heard at the ballot box. Americans have elected politicians time and time again who have promised reform. No such reform has occurred. I ask Shapiro and his ilk: How long should we persist down this road which is paved in our failure? How long should we live as dogs for our masters? How many Americans must die by the hands of industry and greed while we shut up and do as we are told?

Mangione's act was one of violence, certianly. But this violence pales next to the 26,000 Americans who are left to die each year because they lack appropriate health insurance, who die because they cannot pay the demands of extortionists like Brian Thompson. What other

word best describes this system besides violence? Perhaps “massacre”, “slaughter”, or “bloodshed.” Those people who reject Mangione’s act as one of violence protest the sword while ignoring the hellfire of a machine gun.

Opposition to Mangione also point to the profoundly sad reality that Brian Thompson had a family who will now endure a catastrophic level of trauma and suffering. This is a substantive point.

No action is perfect. Consider the white masters who were murdered by their slaves, under the leadership of Nat Turner during his rebellion. Or in the same time, the racist soldiers who died in the American Civil war to defend human slavery. These people had families as well. Does this make the abolitionist cause somehow invalid? Does this mean those slaves were acting amorally?

We may not live in slavery. But the parallels between enslavement and the American Healthcare System are abundant. We too live in bondage. We are forced to keep jobs which eat away at our humanity because a broken leg could ruin our lives. We are forced to bow at the feet of CEOs as they demand tribute – Tribute which is not only financial, but is in the hours of toil for the sake of maintaining coverage.

Detractors will insist that Mangione’s act will not change the American Healthcare system. This is true but it is a strawman. Nobody believes the assassination of Brian Thompson will reform our healthcare system – I suspect Luigi Mangione least of all. Actions like these, radical isolated incidents, function in other capacities.

They ring alarms for those in power, to a tenor which renders them impossible ignore. They inspire thought in younger generations, who will one day be in power, and who one day will possess the ability to enact true change. These actions are not solutions – They are not endings, but beginnings.

The fallout from the assassination is treacherous. It is a forest full of wolves, all salivating to manipulate public opinion and squash discourse for their own benefit.

Most damingly, this includes our elected officials. Even those politicians who champion themselves as mavericks and progressives remain silent. We have seen this blatant radio silence about the event by those who actually can change our healthcare system. This is because all of these officials live in homes and power positions funded by that same system. In 2023, the health insurance industry spent 123 million dollars lobbying our politicians. These politicians are cowards and their silence should be taken as outright evidence to this fact.

In the modern, ultra polarized America, almost no events can unite our country. This assassination is proving an exception. Be them left or right, American citizens are broadly united in disdain for our healthcare system.

With that said, the outpouring of support for Mangione does seem to come in larger volume from the left. And so, we can expect the american media apparatus to paint the assassin as an extremist right winger. They will cherry pick his opinions on various irrelevant culture war issues and attempt to imprint hatred for Mangione in the public consciousness. This effort is dishonest and it is an act of irrelevance.

Mangione is a remarkably intelligent individual. His opinions function independently of one another and this is a good thing. Mangione cannot and should not be described as left, right or center, because this is an untrue categorization.

The attempt to propogandize Mangione as a right winger is a distraction. The minutiae of his political positions are irrelevant. The fight he chose to engage with is one of the ruling and the oppressed, in which the oppressed are united by more profound issues than vague cultural flashpoints. The media will try to make this untrue and we must reject their efforts.

There is too a timbre of opinion which asks “How could a regular person commit such an act?” We may just as easily, and perhaps more accurately, ask how a regular person could *not* commit this act. Mangione is not an insane man. He is not suffering from a psychotic break. He is suffering only from the same oppression which millions of Americans experience. When a human is struck, they will strike back, and this action is not the mark of insanity. It is not some shock aberration. It is instead the expected result. Those in power will seek blame and falsely declare it to be found in Mangione. This is incorrect. For these people, blame instead can be found in the mirror.

I do not want more violence. To the contrary, I want peace. I want the cessation of greed and brutality on the part of our healthcare system. I want reason, intelligence, and human decency. Indeed, if our current trajectory remains, we need not “want” further violent action. It will come, all on its own.